



Vladimir I. Tchernyshev

Red Spies in the U.S.

The arrest of Air Force Sgt. James E. Wood on treason charges is not only another feather in the cap of the FBI. It reveals again the nearly incredible depth of Soviet espionage in our country, now more intensely operated here (indisputable fact) than at any time in history.

Sergeant Wood, 35, serves in the top-secret Air Force Office of Special investigation. The G-men were following suspected Soviet agent Vladimir I. Tchernyshev, the First Secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Washington. Tchernyshev was meeting Wood in New York City when our agents allegedly discovered hundreds of highly classified U.S. military documents in Wood's rental car. He is now being held at Ft. Dix, N.J.

Wood lists his home town as Tacoma, Wash. He has been in the Air Force 18 years and appears to be a U.S. citizen. But Soviet espionage relies heavily on its "sleeper" method. Was Wood a "sleeper"? Behind the scenes, the FBI always wonders.

The most promising Soviet agents are trained at a secret center near Kutchinsk, outside Moscow, and those chosen to be "sleepers" go on to Barkov, 40 kilometers from the city. The immense new Aerodynamic Institute is their cover and they are housed in an old 15th century chateau across the Vereyka River.

For example, the Soviet's Kanan Melody ("Gordon Lonsdale") spy ring planted in the British Admiralty consumed 12 years in its "sleeper" status before starting espionage operations.

Soviet espionage calls the long training process "regrooming" and its agents are first sent abroad for about a year to familiarize themselves with the target country. The United States is the only country the Soviet really fears and they are mostly sent here.

Then the Soviet agents are brought back to the U.S.S.R. They are trained another seven or eight years — as long as that — and returned to the United States.

The made-over men are "regroomed" into U.S. citizens, equipped with false documents: false birth certificates, driver's license, etc., in astounding variety.

Their "Rezident," operating here from a "Rezidentura," directs them into our government, the armed forces, scientific centers, the media, defense or communications industries or whatnot.

Within a period of only a few months not

too long ago, worldwide, 107 Soviet agents were uncovered. Forty-five had diplomatic cover, 30 more were called journalists, and the Soviets passed off 15 as businessmen, five more as Aeroflot airline executives and 12 as cultural experts.

The FBI finds that Soviet Embassy staffs contain anywhere from 50 to 80 per cent espionage personnel — witness Soviet Embassy First Secretary Tchernyshev — and that at least 80 per cent of the U.S.S.R. and Soviet-bloc delegations at the United Nations in New York are intelligence agents and not diplomats at all.

The FBI has found on some, for their own emergency suicide, the Russian version of the Gestapo's "KCB" cyanide pill. It combines concentrated hydrocyanic compounds so powerful that suicide is almost instantaneous — even the fumes can kill. Soviet agents also sometimes carry a small pressure-packed canister with odorless gas. It was used, for example, at a dinner in Odessa. The American Naval, Marine and Air Attaches from our Moscow Embassy were all knocked out this way. Their papers and effects were searched and photographed before they regained consciousness.

An espionage agent deals in two things: facts and people. I have known well four types: the venal man who spies for money; the man with an ideological incentive; the born conspirator (surprisingly abundant), and the entrapped, compromised who cannot stop.

Every government in the world is penetrated by a combination of enemy agents and traitors. The sole question is: To what extent?

Let me cite the case of a senior U.S. diplomat, never publicly disclosed. He secretly committed a security breach. He was quickly permitted to resign. His trail led back through eight previous posts, all the way from West Berlin to Panama to Warsaw, with much evidence that he had been in the Soviet service a full 15 years.

Famous former Central Intelligence Agency chief Allen W. Dulles has stated that "the Soviet had over 40 high-level agents in various Washington departments and agencies during World War II. At least this many were uncovered; we don't know how many remained undetected."

It would be inconceivable to the FBI or any experienced intelligence manager that there are any fewer in place in Washington today.

THE OSWALD—FBI COVER-UP

The Warren Commission had evidence that the accused assassin of President Kennedy had worked for the FBI—and never investigated those charges.

By George O'Toole

This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws" reads the warning on the cover sheet, but the words "Top Secret" have been scratched out. The bottom of the page bears a declassification notice and a date, "6/12/74." Without explanation or fanfare, the government quietly released one of the most highly classified documents held in the vaults of the National Archives, the transcript of the Warren Commission's meeting of Monday, January 27, 1964.

When the Warren Commission began its investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, it chose to carry out its work in absolute secrecy. In September 1964, eight months after it began its probe, the commission published a report naming Lee Harvey Oswald as the lone assassin, and two months later it released twenty-six volumes containing more than ten million words of testimony and evidence. Yet a large mass of additional documents was suppressed for "reasons of national security." When the commission dissolved itself later in 1964, those classified documents were locked away in the National Archives. Today, almost twelve years after the assassination of President Kennedy, 20 percent of the commission's documents are still withheld from the public.

While the declassification and release of any of the commission's transcripts would have been a historic development, the choice of this particular executive session was mildly sensational because of the subject discussed. The commission met on that January afternoon in 1964 to deal with the rapidly burgeoning evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald had been a paid informer for the FBI.

The first reports of an FBI-Oswald connection had reached the commission five days earlier, when Waggoner Carr, the Attorney General of Texas, telephoned the commission's General Counsel, J. Lee Rankin, to pass along a confidential report claiming that Oswald had been recruited by the FBI in September 1962 to work as an undercover agent at a salary of \$200 a month. The report claimed that Oswald had been assigned informer number S-179 and that he had worked for the bureau until his arrest immediately after the assassination of President Kennedy. Carr revealed that the source of his information was Henry Wade, the Dallas district attorney.

Within hours of that phone call on January 22, 1964, Chief Justice Earl Warren hastily assembled the commission for a late afternoon meeting. In addition to Rankin and the Chief Justice, Senator John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky, Representatives Hale Boggs of Louisiana and Gerald Ford of Michigan, and former CIA Director Allen Dulles were present. Two other commission members, Senator Richard Russell of Georgia and John McCloy, former U.S. Commissioner in postwar Germany, were not there.

Rankin began the meeting by reporting on the telephone call he had received from the Texas attorney general. The commissioners were stunned. Later, in his book about the assassination, Gerald Ford noted that the meeting was "more tense and hushed. The commissioners' recollections

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accompanied by Dallas District Attorney Wade—the source of his story—and Wade's assistant, William Alexander. Two prominent Texas attorneys who had been appointed by Carr to act as liaison with the commission were also present. One of them was Leon Jaworski, who ten years later was to become nationally known as the Watergate Special Prosecutor.

The Texans told Warren that reports of Oswald's FBI affiliation had been circulating among local newspapermen for several weeks, and they named Alonzo Hudkins of the *Houston Post* as one source of the story. Wade added that he had also heard a report that Oswald had been a CIA informant and was designated by the agency as No. 110669. The Texans offered several bits of circumstantial evidence of Oswald's FBI connection, including his use of post-office boxes and aliases, a two-hour interview of Oswald by the FBI in September 1962 (during which, presumably, he was recruited), and the fact that Oswald had in his notebook the name, address, and telephone number of an FBI agent, plus the license-plate number of his automobile.

After the meeting, the lawmen returned to Texas, leaving a severely shaken chief justice. Warren scheduled a meeting of the commission for the following Monday to decide how to deal with the problem. And during the weekend, the story of Oswald's alleged FBI affiliation began to surface in the Eastern press.

The commission met at 2:30 P.M. on January 27, 1964. Except for Ford, the full commission was present, as well as Rankin and a stenographer. The meeting began with Rankin reviewing the situation for the commissioners, starting with the telephone call from Carr on the previous Wednesday. Rankin revealed that he had actually received a report on the FBI-Oswald matter from the Secret Service the day before the Texas official called him. Apparently Rankin hadn't noticed the report buried in a bunch of other Secret Service documents.

The Secret Service report contained essentially the same information the Texans volunteered, but it gave as its source a Dallas deputy sheriff named Allan Sweatt. Noting the date on the report, Rankin expressed some concern that nearly three weeks had passed before it was turned over to the commission: "We wondered whether the Secret Service was withholding something from us since they had this in their hands clear back on January 3, the date of the report. The explanation since has been that they were trying to check it out." In fact, the